

Status of 1999 Operations and Plans for 2000 Operations
Bay-Delta Advisory Council
October 15, 1999

Status of 1999 Operations

Status of San Luis Reservoir Storage

- The Department of Water Resources expects to fill the State Water Project share of San Luis Reservoir by the end of January. Based on SWP delivery projections, it is becoming more probable the SWP share will be filled by the end of this year.
- Reclamation expects the Central Valley Project share of San Luis Reservoir to fall short of filling by 35,000 – 45,000 acre-feet by mid-April. With SWP assistance (use of joint point of diversion), the CVP share could completely fill by that time.
 - Reclamation submitted a petition to the SWRCB on September 28 and expects approval by October 31.

Why have the projects gone from near-crisis in June to full recovery by the end year?

- Ramped exports to full capacity in late June and postponed deliveries to some water users to after the San Luis Reservoir low point in August.
- Released water from Friant to transport Cottonwood seeds along the San Joaquin River.
 - Decreased Exchange Contractors demand on water delivered from San Luis Reservoir.
- Increased exports in August and September.
 - SWP increased Banks pumping for almost two months.
 - An additional 38,000 AF of SWP water was moved from Oroville to San Luis Reservoir between August 6 and September 22.
- Lower than expected demands for CVP and SWP deliveries.
 - Cooler than expected summer.
 - Revised fall forecasts for deliveries to water users.

Other Potential Actions that could be used for recovery this year if needed

- Reduce Delta outflow in November (this action is not needed at this time).
 - Reduce outflow by about 500 cfs allows up to 30,000 af of additional pumping.
 - Termination of action triggered by indicators of spring-run yearling movement upstream.
- Use Joint Point of Diversion to fill CVP share of San Luis Reservoir.
 - CVP needs about 30,000 af of water.
 - Available SWP capacity would be used to move CVP reservoir supply or capture excess flows in the winter in November, January, and February.
 - JPD is a lower priority than SWP operations (including Interruptible Water).

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Potential conflicts between fish and water supply in 2000

- Spring-run chinook: Potential export reductions during November through January.
- Delta smelt: Potential export reductions next spring and summer.
- The CALFED Ops Group process will be used over the next month to identify other potential conflicts.

Actions currently being considered to reduce conflicts

- Increase export capability.
 - Use joint point of diversion to ensure filling of CVP share of San Luis Reservoir.
 - Pre-approve an increase in SWP pumping of 500 cfs for July – September.
 - Adjust the export-to-inflow ratio briefly to allow higher exports when delta smelt are not vulnerable (possibly in late June).
- Acquire water or lease storage space south of the Delta.
 - Provides a means of augmenting existing project storage.
 - Purchase water from Vidler Water Company.
 - Purchase banked groundwater from Kern County interests.
 - Lease groundwater storage space from Vidler in Semitropic Groundwater Bank (near Bakersfield); fill during high winter flow period using SWP facilities.
- Borrow water from south-of-Delta users.
 - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
 - Kern County interests.